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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO.

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TOPIC Soviet Troops in Potsdam

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 20 March 1952

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REFERENCES

PAGES

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Prior to 21 February 1952, the southern section of the Delius Kaserne in Potsdam (N 53/2 63) quartered about 600 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia. About 100 to 120 soldiers were seen engaged in field training on Bornstedter Feld on 18 February. The quarters were almost vacant at about noon on 19 February, with only 30 soldiers policing them. Two sedans and 6 trucks stood in front of the garages. The billets were about 90 percent lighted in the evening of 20 February. Trucks in the billeting area.

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2. Prior to 21 February, the northern section of the Delius Kaserne quartered about 550 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. On 16 February, about 60 soldiers were seen assembling in front of their quarters and about 40 more soldiers, in front of a garage. About 25 soldiers were policing the quarters. A truck, three prime movers and a 75.2-mm field gun stood in front of a garage. Prime movers O-51-17, O-51-29 and O-58-43, each towing a 152-mm gun howitzer, and carrying crews of 10 men, were seen en route from the installation to Bornstedter Feld on 21 February. They were followed by 4 officers and about 50 men who were equipped with rifles and spades. Three prime movers towing 152-mm gun howitzers moved into the installation from Kramnitz.

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3. Until 21 February, the Hohenlohe Kaserne was occupied by about 600 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia. The billets were about 90 percent lighted at nightfall on 20 February. No training activity was noticed during the time of observation. Motor vehicles observed in the billeting area

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4. Prior to 21 February, the Ludendorff Kaserne quartered about 550 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia.

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Seven officers and about 120 soldiers practiced with 18 x 37-mm AA guns in front of the garages on 16 February. One officer and 18 men practiced crawling. On 18 February, about 20 men were engaged in policing the quarters and two groups of about 20 men each, in march practice without rifles. Eighteen 37-mm AA guns stood in front of the garages. Eleven trucks, [REDACTED] each towing a 100-mm AT gun, were seen driving toward Nedlitz from the direction of Potsdam at about 6:30 p.m. on 20 February.

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5. Prior to 13 February, no changes were observed regarding the occupation of or the training activity at the Adolf Hitler Kaserne. Sentries wore black-bordered crimson epaulets. (1) Documents found [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] on 8 February included:

- a. Fragments of a draft of four recommendations for decorations for the following officers: Lieutenant Colonel (Tech) Afanasi Yakovlevich Zotov, senior military representative of the Automobile and Tractor Administration of the GOFG, to be awarded the Red Banner Order; Captain Mikhail Fedorovich Vasilyev, military representative of the maintenance and supply department of the Automobile and Tractor Administration of the GOFG, to be awarded the Red Star Order; Captain Ivan Semenovitch Aleksenko, military representative of Ovshou, which is presumably the clothing department of the Supply Administration of the GOFG, to be awarded the Red Star Order; and Captain Grigori Petrovich Pikhur, military representative of the maintenance and supply department of the Automobile and Tractor Administration of the GOFG, to be awarded the Red Star Order.
- b. A test slip of 16 May 1951 for a double-barreled shotgun No 135593, model 35/70, manufactured by Simson & Co in Suhl, Thuringia. (2)

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6. Until 13 February, no changes were observed in the occupation of, and the training activity at, the Kriegsschule in Bornstedt. Sentries wore black-bordered crimson epaulets. [REDACTED]

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7. Prior to 13 February, no changes were observed in the occupation of the Ludendorff Kaserne. Trucks [REDACTED] towing 37-mm AA guns, and truck [REDACTED] towing a field kitchen were seen leaving the installation toward Geltow at about 10:30 a.m. Each truck carried about 20 soldiers. At about 4 p.m., about fifteen 37-mm AA guns were parked in the barracks yard. [REDACTED] (1)

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8. On 11 February, source determined that houses 1, 3 and 5 on Virchowstrasse in the restricted Babelsberg area were designated "The House of 22 Generals".

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[redacted] 108 persons were served meals in the three dining rooms. It was said that the generals would take their meals in the first room; the major generals, in the second room; and the colonels and lieutenant colonels, in the third dining room. On 12 February, source further learned that an x-ray station was located in the house at 14 Karl-Marxstrasse. A major general (Med), 2 majors (Med) and 4 nurses were noticed in the house. On 8 February, six 37-mm AA guns were emplaced north of Stahnsdorferstrasse. Crews of 1 officer and 5 men practiced with each gun. Vehicles parked in front of the restricted area on 7 February included trucks

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[redacted] and the sedans [redacted]
[redacted] Vehicles standing on the large parking lot included trucks and sedans [redacted]
[redacted] Bedsteads and bed-side tables were hauled to the Kleine Sperrgebiet (small restricted area) by trucks [redacted] on 8 February. Sixty-two bed-side tables and 210 bedsteads were counted. The supply officer stated that the furniture was intended for the military-band school. (3)

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9. The Kavallerie Schule at Krampnitz was occupied to capacity between 16 and 25 February. A strength estimate could not be made. Soldiers observed wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and tank insignia and black-bordered black epaulets without branch-of-service insignia. On 20 February, there were 600 to 700 unarmed troops engaged in close-order drill in the eastern section of the installation and about 500 unarmed troops, in the western section of the installation. About 20 officers fired pistols at the target range on the east side of the installation. Small groups of soldiers policed the quarters. Four T-34/85 tanks stood in front of one garage, and 10 field guns of 76.2-mm, in front of a garage in the northern section of the barracks installation, on 21 February. About 50 soldiers were seen cleaning the field guns. All billets were lighted at dusk. Twelve T-34/35 tanks stood in front of the garages on the southwest side of the installation on 25 February. About 100 soldiers practiced machine gun firing on the target ranges on the east side of the billeting area.

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10. On 20 February, four companies of about 130 men each fell in for roll call in the yard of the Ludendorff Kaserne. (1)

11. A rail travel authorization for one return trip from Potsdam to Quedlinburg, made out on 27 September 1951 and stamped [redacted] was found near the komendatura in Potsdam on 6 February. (4)

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[redacted] Comments.

- (1) The information indicates that the barracks installations were still occupied by the same units that were quartered there before. [redacted] Only the strength estimates of the troops in the northern and southern sections of the Delius Kaserne, as stated in paragraph 1 of the present report, are too low. The northern section of the installation is believed to quarter about 1,200 troops and the southern section, 1,500 to 2,000 troops.

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- (2) Only one of the officers mentioned in the document described in 5a of the present report is believed to be known, namely Lieutenant Colonel (Tech) A.Y. Zotov, who may be the Zotov (fnu) of unknown rank who was once identified as chief of a motor vehicle repair plant.

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- (3) Same source reported four medium AA guns to have been emplaced in the area north of Stahnsdorferstrasse in mid-November 1951. See [REDACTED] 25X1
The small restricted area may be the Kolonie Bergstuecken, south of the restricted Babelsberg area, because the same source mentioned a school for military bandmen there in his last report. See [REDACTED]
- (4) [REDACTED] was on several rail travel authorizations seen in various towns in the Soviet Zone of Germany.

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